

WASHTENAW COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND
YOUNG MICHIGAN COMPOSERS CONCERT BAND
COMPOSITION CONTEST 2026

The purpose of this contest is to encourage young composers in Michigan to write interesting (to players and to audiences) music for the concert band and to recognize with a prize, each competition cycle, one such composer who has demonstrated the requisite creativity.

Eligibility

1. The composer must be under 30 years of age, as of the submission deadline date.
2. The composer must be a legal resident of Michigan; OR be enrolled, as of the submission deadline date, in a public or private high school in Michigan; OR be enrolled, as of the submission deadline date, in a school/college/university in Michigan; OR have completed a bachelor's or higher degree from a Michigan college/university.
3. Composers must **not** be contractually obligated as an employee or under contract to any publisher or publishers. Composers, otherwise qualified, who self-publish their music are welcome to submit to this contest. The submitted piece cannot be for sale until after the results of the contest have been made known.

Composition Requirements

1. The composition must be original to the composer (no "arrangements") and (preferably) three to five minutes in duration.
2. Submissions must not have been previously published.
3. Submissions must have been written within the 18 months prior to the submission date.
4. Submissions must not have been previously performed in a public venue.
5. Only one submission per composer will be accepted.
6. Soloist performance pieces are not eligible, although short instrumental solos during the piece are acceptable.
7. Difficulty level:
 - a. A composition may be submitted such that it is intended for middle-school bands (or a very young or very small high school band) (Level II-III, where I = beginner and VI = professional). If so intended, this should be clearly indicated on the application materials and it will be judged accordingly, including the use of appropriate instrumentation and difficulty of individual parts.
 - b. All compositions intended for high school/college/university/community concert bands should be at a Level IV of difficulty. The suggested instrumentation is C piccolo; 1st and 2nd flute; oboe; bassoon; 1st, 2nd, and 3rd

Bb clarinet; bass clarinet; 1st and 2nd alto saxophone; tenor saxophone; baritone saxophone; 1st, 2nd, and 3rd trumpet; 1st and 2nd F horn (and, if desired, either or both of 3rd and 4th F horn); 1st, 2nd, and 3rd trombone; euphonium; tuba; and percussion instruments (usually including snare and bass drum, cymbals, timpani, and mallet instruments, plus any appropriate accessories). If appropriate for the music, Eb clarinet, 2nd oboe, English horn, 2nd bassoon, contrabass clarinet, soprano saxophone, string bass, and piano may be included. Extensive cross-cueing (always on solos for horn, bassoon, oboe, English horn, bass clarinet) is expected. Percussion parts should be playable by no more than five players.

Submission Requirements

1. Complete and submit to the email address provided the application form that is provided as part of these materials.
2. Submit one copy of a full score in PDF format **without the composer's name or other identifying information** to the email address provided.
3. Submit one electronic audio file of the composition, as generated by a composing software program, to the email address provided, **taking care not to identify the composer's identity.**
4. Submit a statement of no more than 200 words, in a separate document, to the address provided, that does not identify the composer, but that could serve as text for program notes and/or an explanation of the motivation/inspiration for, or the meaning/intent of, the piece.
5. **All materials must be submitted by December 31, 2025. Incomplete materials will disqualify the application.**
6. The composer retains all copyright and publishing rights. By submitting a composition, the composer grants to the Washtenaw Community Concert Band the right to retain the score and parts and to perform and to record the composition in perpetuity.
7. There is no application fee.

NOTE: IF selected as the winner of the competition, the applicant will be required to then submit (a) a head-and-shoulders photograph, suitable for publicity purposes; (b) a brief (no more than 300 words) autobiography of major musical experiences in the composer's life to date, and (c) a set of parts (including TC euphonium) for the composition. All future copies of the score and parts must be inscribed with "Winner of the 2026 Washtenaw Community Concert Band Young Michigan Composers Concert Band Composition Contest.

Contest Procedures

1. The Conductor of the Washtenaw Community Concert Band (WCCB), or the Conductor's designee, will appoint, with the approval of the WCCB Board of Directors, a jury of no less than five experienced musicians to judge the entries, as well as the person(s) to receive the application materials and to communicate with

applicants. The jury may include persons not otherwise affiliated with the WCCB, but at least three-fifths of the membership will be active members/players with the WCCB.

2. Individual members of the jury retain the right to inquire as to the accuracy of all the information submitted by the applicant. The jury as a whole retains the right to disqualify any applicant who has mis-represented her/himself, violated copyright laws, plagiarized, etc., and the decision of the jury is final.
3. Compositions will be judged holistically, with attention given to such factors as creativity, orchestration, expected interest to players and audience, and the like. The jury retains the right to disqualify an entry that would be, under normal performance conditions, longer or shorter than 3-5 minutes. The jury also retains the right to select a composition that is longer or shorter than the preferred 3-5 minutes.
4. The jury will make a collective decision concerning the winner. The decisions of the jury are final. The jury reserves the right to select no winner.
5. The winner of the competition will receive a \$2000 cash prize and a certificate.
6. The Conductor of the WCCB may (or may not), at the Conductor's discretion, schedule the winning composition for performance. If scheduled, the winning composer will be invited to attend and participate in one or more rehearsals of the piece and invited to be present and to be recognized at the first public performance of the piece.
7. By applying, each applicant agrees to hold harmless the jury (collectively or as individuals), the WCCB, the WCCB conductor, the WCCB Board of Directors, or members/players of the WCCB from any damages, claims, liabilities, and costs or losses of any kind or nature whatever, which may arise from the selection process or any rehearsal, performance, or recording of a composition entry.

* * * * *

SUMMARY OF APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Submit, via email, one copy of a full score of the composition, in .pdf format, **without the composer's name or other identifying information**, to *composition@wccband.org* by December 31, 2025.
2. Submit via email one electronic **audio** file of the composition as generated by a composing software program in mp3 format to *composition@wccband.org* by December 31, 2025, **taking care not to identify the composer's identity**.
3. Submit, via email, a statement of no more than 200 words, in a separate document in .doc format, to *composition@wccband.org* by December 31, 2025. This document should identify the composition by title, but **not identify the composer**, and should be information that could serve as text for program notes and/or an explanation of the motivation/inspiration for, or the meaning/intent of, the piece.